

[10 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

**China's view on South Asian Nuclear Issue**

2105. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China is insisting that India must adhere to the UN Security Council Resolution on the South Asian nuclear issue;

(b) whether Government are aware of the statement of Foreign Ministry of China that "to the best of my knowledge, none of the nuclear countries have recognised the nuclear status of India", as reported in the Hindu dated 3rd April, 2000; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) India's position on UN Security Council Resolution 1172 has been conveyed to the Chinese side. Government have also underlined that both sides should be sensitive to each others security concerns and sovereignty including the sovereign right of a country to determine its own security needs and take measures essential for its national security requirements. Both sides agree that differences, including on the nuclear issue, should not be an impediment to improvement of bilateral relations.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Government maintains that India is a nuclear weapon State in the sense that we possess nuclear weapons. This is simply a statement of fact. It is neither a conferment that we seek; nor is it a status for others to grant.

**Sale of Indian Women into Sex Slavery**

2106. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report captioned "1000 women sold into sex slavery each year in Britain" published in the Indian Express of May 31st, 2000, stating that more than 1,000 women from Eastern Europe, Asia and Africa were trapped into sex slavery in Britain each year.

(b) if so, what is Government's assessment about the number of

Indian women trapped into sex slavery in Britain and other West European countries, America and Gulf countries each year during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000; and

(c) the steps taken to prevent such sale of Indian women into sex slavery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has no reports of any Indian women having been trapped into sex slavery during the relevant periods in Britain or any other West European country. This year, one case (involving an Indian woman) has been reported from United Arab Emirates and another case (involving three Indian women) has been detected in the U.S.A.

(c) These are isolated instances. Preventive vigilance is exercised by the concerned authorities.

**Setting up of National Centre for Internet Excellence**

2107. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a National Centre for Internet Excellence to promote internet in the country;

(b) whether a task force is propose to be set up for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) A Centre of Excellence in Networking and Internet is under establishment as part activity of the project on expansion of National Centre for Software Technology (NCST) activities at Navi Mumbai.

(b) There is no such proposal under consideration.

(c) Does not arise.